sex have access to education of a comparable quality.

Maintenance of a broad commonality of standards in all the schools of the country has been sought to be achieved by the following ways:—

(i) Making available to all the schools a broadly uniform pattern of syllabi|texbooks designed on the basis of National Curricular Framework for elementary, secondary and higher secondary education brought out by the N.C.E.R.T.

(ii) Requiring all the schools sending their students for Board Examinations to be affiliated to the concerned State Board, the CBSE or the Council for the Indian School Certificate Examinations, as the case may be and thereby to follow the syllabi|textbooks prescribed by the respective Board designed on the basis of the National Curricular Framework.

(iii) Improving the physical facilities and other educational inputs in schools through a number of Centrally Sponsored Schemes and programmes.

The Education Commission (1964-66) and the National Policy on Education (1986) heve recommended that measures should be taken in the direction of the Common School System. The Neighbourhood School Concept is one of the steps to be taken for realization of this goal. The Government would like to bring the existing schools under the Neighbourhood School Concept with a view to effecting egalitarianism in school education.

Setting up of Autonomous Agency for Defence Exports

1540. SHRI SOMPAL: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to refer to answer to Starred Qunestion 110 given in the Rajya Sabha on 2nd May, 1989 and state:

(a) whether Government have taken any decision for setting up of an autonomous agency for promoting defence exports;

(b) if so, what is the progress made in this regard so far; and

(c) if no progress has been made; what are the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (DR. RAJA RAMANNA): (a) to (c) Based on a decision 'in principle' in 1989, to set up an autonomous agency for promoting defence exports, certain preliminary steps had been initiated for the constitution of such an agency. In the interim period, various measures of liberalisations in policy and procedures of exports of defence stores have also been carried out and the existing production agencies such as Defence Public Sector Undertakings and the Ordnance Factory Board have also been permitted to engage in direct exports. In the light of these measures and the progress achieved in defence exports, subsequent to 1989, a final decision on constituting an autonomous agency for promoting defence exports in under the consideration of the Government.

Reproduction of T.V. Serial "Race to Save the Planet"

1541 SHRI RAMDAS AGARWAL: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the University Grants Commission has decided to reproduce the English T.V. Serial entitled "RACE TO SAVE THE PLANET" in Hindi and other regional languages;

(b) if so, what is the total amount involved in this Serial and which are the National and International Educational Research Centres participating| helping the U.G.C.; and

(c) by when the above mentioned serial is expected to be telecast on Doordarshan National Network?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI CHIMANBHAI MEHTA): (a) to (c) Yes Sir. The University Grants Commission has entered into an agreement with WGBH